



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 26, 2008

### **S. 1680**

### **Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge Enhancement Act of 2008**

*As reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on September 16, 2008*

S. 1680 would provide for an exchange of federal and nonfederal land near the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$3 million over the next five years, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill would have no effect on revenues or direct spending.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Under S. 1680, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would convey about 1,800 acres of federal land to Alaska in exchange for about 56,000 acres owned by the state or other entities near the wildlife refuge. The bill would provide that the value of the properties to be exchanged would not be determined by appraisal and would not be equalized through a cash payment. Land acquired by the USFWS would be added to the National Wildlife Refuge System; around 43,000 acres of it would be designated as wilderness. Land conveyed to Alaska would be used to construct a road.

Based on information provided by the USFWS, CBO estimates that carrying out the exchange authorized by the bill and advising the state on routing the new road would cost about \$3 million over the next few years. Most of that amount would be needed to complete an environmental impact statement, which is required by the bill and under the National Environmental Policy Act. We expect that costs to manage the acreage to be acquired by the USFWS would be minimal.

On May 21, 2008, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2801, the Izembek and Alaska Peninsula Refuge and Wilderness Enhancement and King Cove Safe Access Act as ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on April 23, 2008. The two versions of the legislation are similar, and the estimated costs are the same.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.